REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 18 is requested to be cancelled. Claims 1 and 11 are currently being amended. Claims 20-27 are being added.

This amendment adds, changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-2, 11-12, and 20-27 are now pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 11, 12, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakagami (U.S. Patent No. 6,882,807) in view of Kakehashi (JP 404348008A) and Watanabe (U.S. Patent No. 6,055,403).

Claim 1, as amended, recites that a heat generator for use in a heating apparatus comprises coil members arranged along an axis extending in a longitudinal direction of the heat generator, a central shaft in which core materials are made from ferrite and an outer circumference is coated with resin or non-ferrous metal, the central shaft being provided to extend along the axis, the core materials being arranged in positions corresponding to gaps between the coil members, an elastic body formed to be a predetermined thickness at a circumference of the central shaft, a conductor layer formed to be a predetermined thickness at a circumference of the elastic body, and a second elastic body formed to be a predetermined thickness at a circumference of the conductor layer.

In the Office Action, it is admitted that Sakagami fails to disclose or suggest that the core material of the shaft is ferrite, and an outer circumference of the shaft is coated with resin or non-ferrous material. It is asserted, however, that since Kakehashi discloses a dielectric roll formed with a dielectric layer coating made by mixing ferrite power and thermoplastic resin to coat a central shaft core, and Watanabe discloses a fixing member apparatus using ferrite to increase heat generation, it would have been obvious to add the

dielectric layer of ferrite and thermoplastic resin disclosed by Kakehashi to the shaft disclosed by Sakagami to increase heat generation as taught by Watanabe.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion. In particular, there is no motivation or suggestion why one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to use a resin of Kakehashi on the surface of the shaft of Sakagami. Watanabe does disclose that, to increase heat generation, a core 4 may be formed of a material that has a higher permeability and a lower residual magnetic flux density, such as ferrite (col. 4, lines 62-67). This teaching, however, relates to the use of ferrite in the core, which has nothing to do with having a resin formed on an outer surface of a central shaft. Accordingly, without any motivation why one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to use a resin of Kakehashi on the surface of the shaft of Sakagami, the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness.

However, even if combinable, the combination of Sakagami, Kakehashi, and Watanabe fails to disclose or suggest "coil members arranged along an axis extending in a longitudinal direction of the heat generator", and "core materials [made from ferrite] being arranged in positions corresponding to gaps between the coil members," as recited in claim 1. Although Watanabe discloses the use of a core formed of ferrite, there is no disclosure or suggestion that the ferrite core is positioned in gaps between coil members (see, e.g., Figs. 8-10 of the present application). In fact, none of the references even discloses having gaps between coil members. Accordingly, for all of these reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the combination of Sakagami, Kakehashi, and Watanabe.

Claim 2 is patentably distinguishable from the combination of Sakagami, Kakehashi, and Watanabe, by virtue of its dependence from claim 1. Claims 11 and 12 are patentably distinguishable from the combination of Sakagami, Kakehashi, and Watanabe for reasons analogous to claim 1.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a

check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 6/2/06 By _____

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